

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6, 10, 11, 13, 14, 25 and 26 are pending. Claims 2-5, 7-9, 12, 15-24 and 26 – 31 are canceled.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Claims 1, 6, 10, 11, 13, 14, 25 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Strong in view of Bowden.

Claims 1, 7 and 14 are directed to an apparatus for coupling a hand-graspable knob to a plate. In the latest Office action, the Examiner suggests the nut member 10 of Strong, which is embedded in a concrete slab to be lifted, is a knob. Applicant submits that nut member 10 is not a knob. The word “knob” is defined as “a projecting part, usually rounded, forming the handle of a door, drawer or the like.” Random House Dictionary, 2009. A “knob” is also “a rounded lump or protuberance on the surface or at the end of something.” Random House Dictionary, 2009. A knob is “a rounded handle, as on a door or drawer” or “a rounded protuberance.” The American Heritage Science Dictionary. A “knob” is also “a knoblike ornament or handle; as, the knob of a lock, door, or drawer.” Webster’s Revised Unabridged Dictionary, 1996. Clearly, the nut member 10 of Strong is not a knob under accepted definitions of the word. Copies of the definitions of “knob” cited above are attached.

The combination of Strong and Bowden is without support and is improper. This is clearly an example of an Examiner picking and choosing elements from unrelated art in order to fashion an obviousness rejection.

Bowden is related to securing panel elements together (e.g., securing modular concrete form panels). Bowden discloses a tie rod assembly for connecting panels and has no relation to threaded fasteners of the present invention. In fact, Bowden does not disclose any threaded components and the Examiner has offered no reason why this non-analogous art is being used in

combination with Strong. There is no suggestion or teaching that key 20 of Bowden is a "coupling member having an external thread set" as presently claimed.

According to MPEP 2141: The examiner must determine what is "analogous prior art" for the purpose of analyzing the obviousness of the subject matter at issue. Under the correct analysis, any need or problem known in the field of endeavor at the time of the invention and addressed by the patent [or application at issue] can provide a reason for combining the elements in the manner claimed. " KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc. 82 USPQ2d 1385, 1397 (2007). Thus a reference in a field different from that of applicant's endeavor may be reasonably pertinent if it is one which, because of the matter with which it deals, logically would have commended itself to an inventor's attention in considering his or her invention as a whole."

The Examiner has offered to reason or motivation to modify the reference for any purpose or to solve a any problem. The Examiner suggests

"It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the coupling member of Strong with a pair of side walls as taught by Bowden *in order to limit the movement of the coupling member within the plate member.*" Page 3.
Emphasis added.

Yet, movement of the coupling member within the plate member of Strong is intended and particularly desirable.

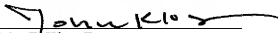
In view that the combination of Strong and Bowden does not disclose the "knob" limitation of the pending claims and the combination of Strong and Bowden is unsupported under MPEP 2141, reconsideration of claims 1, 6, 10, 11, 13, 14, 25 and 26 is requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the pending claims and arguments. Applicant respectfully submits that, as amended, the subject application is in condition for allowance, and allowance thereof is kindly requested. Time extension fees should be charged against the undersigned's Deposit Account 02-2732 (ref. 24954-25). The Examiner is invited to direct any questions regarding this application to John Klos at (612) 321-2806.

Dated: March 4, 2009

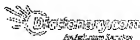
Respectfully submitted,
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knob (nɒb) Show IPA noun, verb, knobbed, knob-bing.

-noun

- a projecting part, usually rounded, forming the handle of a door, drawer, or the like.
- a rounded lump or protuberance on the surface or at the end of something, as a knot on a tree trunk.
- Architecture*. an ornamental boss, as of carved work.
- a rounded hill, mountain, or elevation on a ridge.

-verb (used with object)

- to produce a knob on.
- to furnish with a knob.
- (in stone cutting) to knock off (excess stone) preparatory to dressing; knobble; skiffle.

Origin:

1350-1400; ME *knobbe* < MLG

Related forms:

knoblike, adjective

Dictionary.com Unabridged

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Language Translation for : knob

Spanish: **bulto**, **protuberancia**, German: **der Knopf**,

Japanese: 球 (たまご)

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knob (nɒb) [Pronunciation Key](#)

n.

- A rounded protuberance.
- A rounded handle, as on a drawer or door.

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- b. A rounded control switch or dial.
3. A prominent rounded hill or mountain.

[Middle English knobbe, from Middle Low German, *knof* in wood]

knobbed (nôbd) *adj.*, knobbi-ness *n.*, knobby *adj.*

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Knob

Knob, *n.* [A modification of knop. Cf. [Nob](#).]

1. A hard protuberance; a hard swelling or rising; a bunch; a lump; as, a knob in the flesh, or on a bone.
2. A knoblike ornament or handle; as, the knob of a lock, door, or drawer. -- Chaucer.
3. A rounded hill or mountain; as, the Pilot Knob. [U. S.] -- Bartlett.
4. (Arch.) See [Knop](#).

[Knob latch](#), a latch which can be operated by turning a knob, without using a key.
Knob

Knob, *v. i.* To grow into knobs or bunches; to become knobbed. [Obs.] -- Drant.

Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary, © 1996, 1998 MICRA, Inc.
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Related Words for : knob
boss, node, thickening, pommel
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knob

noun

1. a circular rounded projection or protuberance
2. a round handle
3. any thickened enlargement [syn: node]
4. an ornament in the shape of a ball on the hilt of a sword or dagger

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knob

1373, knobbe, probably from a Scand. or Ger. source (cf. M.L.G. knobbe "knob," O.N. knýfill "short horn"). Meaning "knoll, isolated round hill" is first recorded 1850, especially in U.S.

Online Etymology Dictionary, © 2001 Douglas Harper
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Main Entry: knob

Pronunciation: 'nɒb

Function: noun

: a rounded protuberance or lump --knob-by /nɒb-E/ *adjective*

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knob (nɒb) **Pronunciation Key**

A prominent, rounded hill or mountain.